

ONTARIO'S EFFORTS TO RELIEVE THE FUEL SITUATION.

(From an Ontario Paper.)

The Ontario Government is busy working out a solution of the problem of fuel shortage. They are of the opinion that, while this is a very great problem, it is not altogether the shortage of fuel, but also there is involved the question of teaching the people of the country to economize and conserve. The people are slow to realize that there is a real shortage and that the war has only aggravated a condition that we would have had to cope with in any case. Our present condition is only one other example of our unpreparedness, though this very unpreparedness for the war is our great vindication. The government is taking very active measures to impress upon the people the actual fuel situation, and are instituting an educational propaganda by circulating the whole province and advertising in all the local papers.

In Ontario, owing to our geographical position, our denser population, and the fact that we have no coal deposits, the situation is more acute than in the other provinces. The Eastern and Western provinces could, with some additional development, look after themselves. The increased tax on the United States resources means that we cannot look forward for the abundant supply of coal we have had to us in the past.

There are two known sources of fuel in Ontario—peat and wood, with wood available during the coming winter. Each province has a fuel controller, and in the large centres deputy fuel controllers have been appointed. The government has granted to municipalities the wood on crown lands, and they are to cut this during the coming summer. Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Sudbury have already taken advantage of this offer.

The department itself has taken action, and expects to cut and deliver enough wood this summer to supply fuel for all government institutions. This means in some cases a readjustment of some of the heating plants in order that wood may be used profitably and economically. An appropriation of \$100,000 has been set aside for the investigation and working out of the problems as they arise.

The lesson of the war is self-reliance; had we been thrown entirely on our own resources we would have been in a very bad condition.

The efficiency of manilla rope connections and fastenings in terms of percentages of the tested strength of the new rope has been found by careful experiment to be 90 per cent. for an eye spliced over an iron thimble, 80 per cent. for a short splice, 65 per cent. for a timber hitch, slip knot, or clove hitch, 50 per cent. for square knot, weaver knot, or sheet bend, and 45 per cent. for a Flemish loop or over-hand knot.

There are, approximately, 7,500 parts in the American war truck, which weighs complete just over four tons, and is propelled by a 58 horse-power engine, running at 1,350 revolutions per minute.

According to Les Mouvelles, of Maastricht, Holland, another long-range gun, similar to the one already bombarding Paris, passed through Belgium, from Essen, on Monday. The length of the barrel is from 20 to 25 metres, and the calibre from 20 to 25 centimetres.

Passenger—Who's the swell ye was talkin' to, Jimmie? Newsboy—Aw, him an' me's worked together for years. He's editor o' one o' my papers.

Two Canadian soldiers were talking. One said: "I hear the Australians were in Jerusalem on Christmas Day." To which the other replied: "Betcher the shepherds watched their flocks that night."

A visitor to the household of a colored man in Georgia was much impressed by the thriftiness of the mistress of the house, according to Harper's. "That's a hard-workin' wife you've got, Joe," said he. "Ye," said Joe, with the utmost gravity, "I wish I had a couple more like her."

"Tell you what, old man, this sugar shortage is getting serious," "Doesn't affect me. I've got 120 pounds of it at home," replied the smiling optimist, quoted in Judge. "Great Scott, man! How did you manage to get it?" "Oh, I married it."

Judge (sternly)—Did you steal that chicken, Sambo?

Sambo—Yes, sah, I took dat chicken. It was the cookery book told me to take it. De cookery book say, "take one chicken." It don't say buy one chicken, or beg one chicken, or borrow one chicken; it say "take one chicken." And it don't tell you whose chicken to take; so I took the first chicken I could lay my hands on. I followed the directions of the cookery book, sah."

An elderly lady of very prim and severe aspect was seated next a young couple, who were discussing the merits of their motor cars. "What color is your body?" asked the young man of the girl at his side, meaning, of course, the body of her motor. "Oh, mine is pink. What is yours?" "Mine," replied the man, "is brown with wide yellow stripes." This was two much for the old lady. Rising from the table, she exclaimed: "When young people come to asking each other the color of their bodies at a dinner party it is time I left the room."

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